

2024 SNAPSHOT OF PHILANTHROPY RESEARCH CENTERS IN EUROPE

This factsheet provides an overview of philanthropy research centers and chairs in Europe that are institutional members of ERNOP, their main academic disciplines, philanthropy-related focus, and the most important research questions (RQs) they aim to answer.

ERNOP members study philanthropy, which is understood as private, mainly voluntary, contributions to public causes. Research on philanthropy is scattered among different academic disciplines. Research centers studying philanthropy are often multidisciplinary, thereby integrating several academic disciplines when studying philanthropy. ERNOP perceives all these different perspectives as a strength and aims to include them all in the study of philanthropy. For more information, visit www.ernop.eu



WU VIENNA

– Institute for Nonprofit Management; NPO Competence Center; Social Entrepreneurship Center

EST.: 1997

HQ: Vienna, Austria

Academic disciplines:

Business Administration, Management, Nonprofit Management

Philanthropy keywords:

Individual philanthropic engagement (donations, volunteering), Foundations, Cross-sector collaborations (e.g. social impact bonds, corporate volunteering), Impact Investment

Key RQs:

- How do nonprofit organizations contribute to society, and what do they need to fulfil their pivotal societal functions?
- How do contextual and individual factors make individuals to engage in philanthropy and to donate/volunteer to/in particular fields of charity?
- What are the motives, practices and consequences of non-profit organizations' collaborations with businesses (e.g. social impact bonds, corporate volunteering)?
- What are the support needs of social entrepreneurs/of immigrant entrepreneurs?

KU LEUVEN

– Department of Marketing

EST.: 2014

HQ: Brussels, Belgium

Academic disciplines:

Nonprofit marketing, Sustainable marketing, Consumer behavior, Service marketing, Marketing strategy, Retailing, Sports marketing

Philanthropy keywords:

Fundraising ethics, Fundraising, Charitable giving, Donor psychology, Face-to-face fundraising, Charity checkouts

Key RQs:

- How do various stakeholders' ethical beliefs about fundraising look like, and why?
- What is the impact of fundraising ethics on fundraising effectiveness?
- How do recruiters and donors perceive face-to-face fundraising ethics?
- What makes charity checkouts effective?
- What are the downsides of charity checkouts?

MASARYK UNIVERSITY

– Centre for Nonprofit Sector Research

EST.: 2003

HQ: Brno, Czech Republic

Academic disciplines:

Economics, Law, Management, Public Administration

Philanthropy keywords:

Financial management, Sustainability, Charitable giving, Public-nonprofit partnership, Civil society transformation

Key RQs:

- What factors affect the financial sustainability and vulnerability of nonprofit organizations?
- What is the impact of public policies and regulation on the behaviour of the nonprofit organizations?
- What are the specifics of the provision of public services by nonprofit organizations?
- What are the ways of effective internal capacity building of nonprofit organizations in relation to their readiness for crisis situations?

COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL

– Center for Civil Society Studies

EST.: 2013

HQ: Copenhagen, Denmark

Academic disciplines:

History, Sociology, Organizational science, Philosophy, Political economy, Law

Philanthropy keywords:

Foundations as society builders, Civic Governance, Civilizing Business, Civil Society Elites, Moral Economy

Key RQs:

- How has philanthropic gift-giving practices (conceptualizing, categorizing & organizing) influenced the development of the welfare state?
- How has the historical changing definitions of "the common good" simultaneously effected philanthropic practices and societal organization?
- How has, from a comparative perspective, private philanthropy's gift-giving been regulated and organized over time?
- What role do elites of and in civil society play in governance structures?
- Which role does civil society play in civilizing the economy (e.g. through foundations, democratic business, associative governance, etc.)?

ESSEC BUSINESS SCHOOL – Philanthropy Chair

EST.: 2011

HQ: Cergy, France

Academic disciplines

Organization Theory, Management, History, Sociology, Social psychology

Philanthropy keywords

Impact, Institutionalization, History, Hybridity, Strategy

Key RQs:

- What are the different strategies that philanthropic organizations can adopt?
- How do philanthropic ideas & practices evolve over time?
- How do foundations collectively tackle climate change?
- How do foundations construct their decisions to support grantees?
- What does systems change mean for philanthropy?
- What is the role of philanthropy in cross-sector partnerships?

FREIBURG UNIVERSITY – Institute for Economics, Public & Nonprofit Management

EST.: 2013

HQ: Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany

Academic disciplines:

Economics, Sociology, Psychology.

Philanthropy keywords:

Corporate governance, Corporate social responsibility, Ethics, Nonprofit marketing, Volunteering, Human resource management, Organizational behavior, Change management.

Key RQs:

- Why do individuals want to work for nonprofit organizations?
- How can nonprofit organizations retain their paid and unpaid workers?
- What are the factors that drive prosocial and sustainable behavior?
- How do consumers, citizens, volunteers etc. react to instances of unethical organizational behavior?
- How should nonprofit organization design their marketing programs to increase prosocial and sustainable behavior?

UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES GHENT – Research Centre for Sustainable Organisations

EST.: 1995

HQ: Ghent, Belgium

Academic disciplines:

Marketing, Fundraising, Management, Business Administration

Philanthropy keywords:

Fundraising, legacies, corporate partnerships, donor communication, personas

Key RQs:

- How can organisations communicate effectively with their donors?
- How can organisations effectively build corporate partnerships?
- How is private fundraising by organisations in Belgium organised?
- What is does legacy giving in Belgium look like?

HAMBURG UNIVERSITY – Chair for management of public, private, and non-profit organizations

EST.: 2008

HQ: Hamburg, Germany

Academic disciplines:

Business administration, Economics, Sociology, Law

Philanthropy keywords:

Relationship marketing, Blood donor marketing, Nonprofit financial management, Refugee integration, Civil society

Key RQs:

- Why do blood donors stop giving?
- How do nonprofit organizations build long-term relationships with the next generation of donors?
- What are the service needs of refugees and barriers to integration?
- What pressures keep nonprofit organizations from investing in their organizational infrastructure?
- What does it take to transform prosocial motivation into prosocial behavior?

HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY – Centre for Social Investment

EST.: 2006

HQ: Heidelberg, Germany

Academic disciplines:

Sociology, Political science, Economics, Law, Protestant theology, Social geography

Philanthropy keywords:

Strategy, Roles of philanthropy, Impact, Partner/grantee perception reporting, Governance, Foundations concepts and historical forms in Europe

Key RQs:

- How can we better understand social investments, civil society and namely philanthropy in an international, cross-cultural and inter-temporal perspective?
- How do processes of social innovation work?
- What is the contribution of civil society towards social innovation and social problem-solving?
- How can philanthropic organizations develop high-impact strategies?
- What could a diachronically and cross-culturally sustainable theory of philanthropy look like that combines social science modelling with perspectives from outside Western Europe from the fields of antiquity, regional studies, and religious studies?

TEL-AVIV UNIVERSITY – Institute for Law and Philanthropy

EST.: 2014

HQ: Tel-Aviv, Israel

Academic disciplines:

Economics, Law, Organizational Theory, Philosophy, Sociology and Anthropology

Philanthropy keywords:

Data on giving and nonprofits, Cross-sector collaboration, Institutional philanthropy and foundations, Gender, Justice and democracy

Key RQs:

- How to map and follow donations from varied resources to non-profits in Israel?
- How do tax regulations effect giving and non-profit sector in Israel?
- What is the role for philanthropic foundations in Israel?
- How do foundations and government collaborate and to what effect?
- How does philanthropy relate to democracy and justice?

UNIVERSITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

– Center for Philanthropy

EST.: 2018

HQ: Vaduz, Liechtenstein

Academic disciplines:

Law, Empirical studies

Philanthropy keywords:

Charitable foundations, Volunteering, Donations

Key RQs:

- What does the philanthropic landscape in Liechtenstein look like?
- Which are the major global developments in philanthropy with relevance for the civic sector in Liechtenstein?
- How can charitable foundations maximise their impact?
- To which extent and for what purposes do citizens in Liechtenstein volunteer?
- How does the legal, fiscal, and societal environment for philanthropy in Liechtenstein compare to other countries?

VU AMSTERDAM

– Center for Philanthropic Studies

EST.: 1995

HQ: Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Academic disciplines:

Sociology, Public Administration, Social Psychology, Demography, Economics, Communication Science

Philanthropy keywords:

Giving, Volunteering, Foundations, Donation of bodily material, Grantmaking, Crowdfunding

Key RQs:

- Who gives what, when, where, and why, and to what effect?
- What are the effects of restrictions on funding practices by grantmaking organizations on the effectiveness of grantee organizations?
- How do civil society organizations affect the size, composition and effectiveness of philanthropy?
- How can we understand and explain the donation of bodily material?
- What is the impact of institutions and regulation on philanthropy and on its impact in society?
- How does volunteering contribute to health, well-being, and social productivity?

ERASMUS UNIVERSITY

– Rotterdam School of Management

EST.: 2003

HQ: Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Academic disciplines:

Business Administration

Philanthropy keywords:

Corporate Philanthropy, Volunteering, Volunteer Management, Corporate Foundations, Civil Society

Key RQs:

- How to sustain voluntary & philanthropic energy?
- What is the added value of philanthropy and volunteering?
- How can volunteers be managed?
- How can we understand civil Society as a concept and in relation to the government and business?
- How are (endowed) foundations managed?

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

– Centre for Research On Civil Society and Voluntary Sector

EST.: 2008

HQ: Oslo, Norway

Academic disciplines:

Political science, Sociology, Economics

Philanthropy keywords:

Volunteering, Voluntary organization, Voluntary sector, Civic engagement, Social change

Key RQs:

- What are the antecedents, characteristics, forms and effects of volunteering and civic engagement and how do they change over time?
- How do societal, technological and political factors contribute to the transformation of the size, scope of the third sector and its components?
- What are the main income sources of the third sector and how do they evolve over time?
- How do public policies impact on the economy of the third sector and vice versa?
- How do to third sector organizations contribute to democracy?

UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE – Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory

EST.: 1992

HQ: Belgrade, Serbia

Academic disciplines:

Philosophy, Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Legal studies

Philanthropy keywords:

Solidarity, Care, Philanthropy, Welfare, Justice

Key RQs:

- What are the manifestations and drivers of philanthropy, solidarity and care?
- Who and how defines a person or a group in need of care and support?
- Is caring for others a matter of good will or a matter of justice?
- To what extent should we rely on the state, and how much should we depend on the voluntary activities of individuals and organizations for the provision of care and welfare for each individual and the society as a whole?
- What constitutes interdependencies between care mainstreaming and security?

ESADE BUSINESS SCHOOL – ESADE Center for Social Impact

EST.: 2021

HQ: Barcelona, Spain

Academic disciplines:

Social Entrepreneurship, Organization Theory, Strategic Management

Philanthropy keywords

Venture Philanthropy, Social Impact Investment, Social Entrepreneurship, Impact Measurement and Management

Key RQs:

- How can foundations collaborate and learn to generate greater impact?
- How can philanthropy unleash the potential of catalytic capital?
- How can place-based organizations measure and manage systemic impact?
- How to assess the value-add of non-financial support in venture philanthropy?
- How can Gender-Lens Investing contribute to the growth and relevance of impact investing?

MARIE CEDERSCHIÖLD UNIVERSITY – Centre for Civil Society Research

EST.: 1992

HQ: Stockholm, Sweden

Academic disciplines:

Political Science, Social Work, Sociology, Business Administration, History

Philanthropy keywords:

Charitable giving, Volunteering, Welfare services, Voluntary social work, History of philanthropy

Key RQs:

- Who gives to what and how do patterns in giving change over time?
- How are different types of civic engagement combined cumulatively in an active citizenship?
- What is the significance of giving and volunteering in relation to a universal welfare state, historically, today and in the future?
- What are the emerging trends in the philanthropic sector in Sweden and what are their significance in a broader perspective?

UNIVERSITY OF BASEL – Center for Philanthropy Studies (CEPS)

EST.: 2008

HQ: Basel, Switzerland

Academic disciplines:

Business Administration, Economics, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Regional studies

Philanthropy keywords:

NPO-Management, Cross-sector collaboration, Individual philanthropy, NPO Law & Economics, Data on Philanthropy

Key RQs:

- How can NPOs and foundations/philanthropists improve their effectiveness and efficiency?
- How can NPOs and foundations be better managed?
- How does philanthropy benefit the society?
- How does the nonprofit of the future look like?
- How do philanthropic organizations function in various jurisdictions?
- What are the factors influencing philanthropy of individuals and what changes their strength?

UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA – Geneva Centre for Philanthropy

EST.: 2017

HQ: Geneva, Switzerland

Academic disciplines:

Law, Economics, Management, Affective sciences, Business ethics, Psychology

Philanthropy keywords:

Taxation and philanthropy, Social entrepreneurship, Hybrid entities, Artificial intelligence, Governance of foundations, Democracy

Key RQs:

- Why and how to design-tax incentives for the common good?
- Why Social entrepreneurship and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) could be the key drivers to achieve the Agenda 2030?
- Why do people give?
- How can foundations governance be more efficient?
- What are the use and impact of AI on philanthropy and what can philanthropy do to promote ethical and inclusive AI?

IMD BUSINESS SCHOOL – Debiopharm Chair for Family Philanthropy

EST.: 2017
HQ: Lausanne, Switzerland

Academic disciplines:
Philanthropy, Family Business, Entrepreneurship, Management, Governance

Philanthropy keywords:
Family Philanthropy, Family Business, Family Foundation, Family Mission, Family Governance

Key RQs:

- What drives enterprising families to give?
- How do enterprising families organize their giving?
- How can enterprising families give more effectively or become more efficient at their giving?
- How can family philanthropists leverage the existing governance mechanisms to better support their giving?
- How does philanthropy affect the family business, the enterprising family itself and vice-versa?

UNIVERSITY OF KENT – Centre for Philanthropy

EST.: 2008
HQ: Canterbury, United Kingdom

Academic disciplines:
Philanthropic Studies, Social Policy, Sociology

Philanthropy keywords:
Major donors, Charitable giving, Fundraising, Voluntary action, Philanthropic citizenship

Key RQs:

- What is the role and purpose of philanthropy?
- Who gives, to what causes, and why?
- What qualities and skills underlie successful fundraising?
- How do children and young people learn to give?
- Understanding the nature, challenges and opportunities of a Moonshot Philanthropy approach.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD – Gradel Institute of Charity, New College

EST.: 2023
HQ: Oxford, United Kingdom

Academic disciplines:
Management, Strategy, Sociology, Economics, Public policy

Philanthropy keywords:
Charity management, Social impact, Effectiveness, Performance, Governance

Key RQs:

- How can charity effectiveness and impact be measured?
- How can board governance be transformed?
- Do charities that rely on earned income grow faster than those that depend on contributions?
- Do volunteers allow charities to deliver services more efficiently?
- How can charity transparency and accountability be improved?

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS – Centre for the Study of Philanthropy and Public Good

EST.: 2016
HQ: St. Andrews, United Kingdom

Academic disciplines:
Public Policy, Management, Sociology

Philanthropy keywords:
Foundations, Institutions of philanthropy, Community/engaged philanthropy, History of philanthropy, Socio-cultural roles, Norms and expressions of philanthropy

Key RQs:

- What are the individual and organizational expressions and motives of philanthropy?
- What are the theories, concepts and sites of philanthropy?
- What is the story of philanthropy, and what lessons and insights does it offer across cultures, time and space?
- How do philanthropy and society interact, and what are the effects, impacts and outcomes of philanthropic activities?
- What are the different facets and expressions of public good, the accompanying policies and regulatory environments, and how do we identify, achieve and assess public good?

ABOUT ERNOP

The European Research Network On Philanthropy aims to advance, coordinate and promote research on philanthropy in Europe. We eagerly invite you to join our community of philanthropy researchers and practitioners with in a research interest. To date, around 250 members from almost 30 (mostly) European countries have joined ERNOP.

At the biennial ERNOP conference, researchers studying philanthropy present their state-of-art research, exchange ideas and meet colleagues and practitioners. The conference aims to contribute to a European philanthropy researcher identity. ERNOP is proud that this conference is considered to be the leading conference on European philanthropy research. We are pleased that ERNOP members represent European philanthropy research in other international conferences as ISTR and ARNOVA, and are part of the editorial board of major journals as NVSQ, Voluntas, JPM and VSR.

ERNOP represents the study of philanthropy in Europe in discussions among European policymakers in the public and philanthropy sector and has developed warm working relationships with European professional associations as Philea, Impact Europe, EFA and CEV.

As research community we want to contribute to society. Every year, members of ERNOP publish their work in a broad range of academic journals and present their work on conferences. ERNOP members make their work available for all working in, with and for philanthropy through the ERNOP Science and Society Series and through the ERNOP Research Notes.

More information can be found at www.ernop.eu.